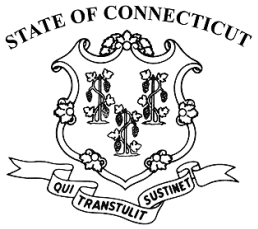

Substitute House Bill No. 7103

Public Act No. 25-42

AN ACT CONCERNING THE KATIE BECKETT WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 17b-283 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

The Commissioner of Social Services shall, within available appropriations, administer a Medicaid waiver program pursuant to Section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act to provide home and community-based services for persons who are institutionalized or at risk of institutionalization and who (1) are **[**twenty-one**]** eighteen years of age or younger; (2) have a physical disability and may also have a co-occurring developmental disability; and (3) meet the financial eligibility criteria established in the waiver.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For purposes of this section and section 3 of this act, the "Katie Beckett Waiver Program" means the Medicaid waiver program established pursuant to section 17b-283 of the general statutes, as amended by this act. Not later than January 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Social Services shall make available on the Internet web site of the Department of Social Services:

(1) Information on eligibility criteria for the Katie Beckett Waiver

Program, including any income or asset thresholds;

(2) A summary of services available under the program;

(3) A listing with contact information for family support groups and advocacy groups for children and young adults with severe debilitating diseases or conditions;

(4) A listing of other Medicaid waiver programs or Medicaid state plan services that offer services for such children and young adults, including eligibility criteria for such programs; and

(5) A listing of private organizations and state programs that may offer funding for home modification or adaptive equipment for persons with disabilities, including a link to the Internet web site of the Department of Aging and Disability Services for information on adaptive equipment purchases pursuant to section 17a-788 of the general statutes or assistive technology loans pursuant to section 17a-795 of the general statutes.

(b) The Commissioner of Social Services shall include information on eligibility criteria and provider reimbursement rates for the Katie Beckett Waiver Program in Medicaid provider bulletins.

(c) The Commissioner of Social Services shall annually administer a survey via electronic mail or mail to applicants who are on the waiting list for the Katie Beckett Waiver Program. The survey shall be designed to allow applicants to confirm or update demographic information and choose to remain on the waiting list or be removed. Applicants who do not respond shall remain on the waiting list.

Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Social Services shall develop a five-year plan to eliminate the waiting list for the Katie Beckett Waiver Program and add home modification coverage for waiver participants with disabilities through the program.

(b) Not later than October 1, 2026, the commissioner shall file a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the plan with the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and human services. The report shall include recommendations concerning state appropriations needed to implement the plan.

Governor's Action:
Approved June 10, 2025